

Vital Events

The number of Kansas vital events (resident live births, deaths, stillbirths, abortions, and occurrence marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 1.4 percent from 98,733 in 1996 to 97,377 in 2005. ([Table 1](#))

Between 1996 and 2005, some large changes in vital events were a 26.2 percent decrease in the divorce and annulment rate and a 26.9 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2005 at 13,492. This represented 34.0 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2005 (14.5) increased 2.1 percent from the 1996 rate of 14.2. The 1996 rate was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate decreased 2.2 percent, from 9.2 in 1996 to 9.0 in 2005. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

The stillbirth rate in 2005 (4.9) was identical to the 1996 rate. Hebdomadal, perinatal, neonatal and infant death rates decreased from 1996 to 2005, with percentage decreases of 9.3, 5.4, 9.3, and 8.5 respectively. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

The age-adjusted death rate for the black population in 2005 was 1.4 times higher than that of the white population. ([Figure 4](#))

Between 1996 and 2005, both marriage and marriage dissolution (divorces and annulments) rates continued their general downward trend.* The marriage rate (6.8) decreased 15.0 percent from the 1996 rate of 8.0. The marriage dissolution rate dropped from 4.2 in 1996 to 3.1 in 2005. ([Table 1](#))

Over half (10,349) of the marriages in 2005 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))

***Note:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.